Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1   1. (Currently amended): A method of collecting an electronic signature for an

2   electronic record stored in a database, the method comprising:

3   receiving information indicative of an occurrence of a predetermined event, the

4   predetermined event defined to represent a set of operations to be preformed to accomplish a

5   task;

6   automatically creating an electronic record from data stored in a plurality of

7   different database tables associated with execution of one or more operations in the set of

8   operations a database transaction in response to [[an]] the occurrence of [[a]] the predetermined

9   event;

10   storing an instance of the electronic record in a common repository of electronic

11   records that provides an audit trail that cannot be altered or disabled by users associated with the

12   database;

13   executing a rule associated with the electronic record to determine whether an

14   electronic signature is required to connote review and/or approval of the electronic record; and

15   if execution of the rule results in a determination that an electronic signature is

16   required, marking the instance of the electronic record as unsigned and initiating a request to

17   collect the required electronic signature prior to committing the database transaction to the

18   database.

1   2. (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving an electronic

2   signature from the user; verifying the electronic signature; and in response to a positive

3   verification of the electronic signature, marking the electronic record as signed.

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1   3. (original): The method of claim 2 wherein the electronic record is stored in a

2 common repository of electronic records that provides an audit trail that cannot be altered or

3 disabled by users of the database.

1   4. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic record comprises

2 unstructured data in a character large object (CLOB) format.

1   5. (original): The method of claim 3 wherein the unstructured data comprises a

2 well formed XML document stored within a column of a table stored in the database.

1   6. (original): The method of claim 4 wherein fields of the electronic record are

2 filled with XML data based on a predefined mapping to multiple data sources.

1   7. (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, if execution

2 of the rule results in a determination that an electronic signature is required, displaying data from

3 the electronic record on a computer display.

1   8. (original): The method of claim 7 wherein data from the electronic record is

2 display according to a predefined layout set forth in an XSL style sheet.

1   9. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the rule requires a plurality of

2 different electronic signatures and wherein, if execution of the rule results in a determination that

3 a plurality of electronic signatures are required, requesting the plurality of electronic signatures.

1   10. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic record is initially

2 marked as unsigned by setting an appropriate attribute associated with a database table in which

3 at least part of the record is stored.

1   11. (Currently amended): A computer system that manages electronic records

2 stored in a database, the computer system comprising:

3   a processor;

4   a database; and

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5   a computer-readable memory coupled to the processor, the computer readable

6   memory configured to store a computer program;

7   wherein the processor is operative with the computer program to:

8   receive information indicative of an occurrence of a predetermined event,

9   the predetermined event defined to represent a set of operations to be preformed to accomplish a

10   task

11   (i) automatically create an electronic record from data stored in a plurality

12   of different database tables associated with execution of one or more operations in the set of

13   operations a database transaction in response to [[an]] the occurrence of [[a]] the predetermined

14   event;

15   (ii) store an instance of the electronic record in a common repository of

16   electronic records that provides an audit trail that cannot be altered or disabled by users

17   associated with the database;

18   (iii) execute a rule associated with the electronic record to determine

19   whether an electronic signature is required to connote review and/or approval of the electronic

20   record; and

21   (iv) mark the instance of the electronic record as unsigned and initiate a

22   request to collect the required electronic signature if execution of the rule results in a

23   determination that an electronic signature is required prior to committing the database transaction

24   to the database.

1   12. (original): The computer system of claim 11 wherein the electronic record is

2   stored in a common repository of electronic records that provides an audit trail that cannot be

3   altered or disabled by users of the system.

1   13. (original): The computer system of claim 12 wherein the electronic record

2   comprises unstructured data in a character large object (CLOB) format.

1   14. (original): The computer system of claim 13 wherein the unstructured data

2   comprises a well formed XML document stored within a column of a table stored in the

3   database.

1   15. (original): The computer system of claim 14 wherein fields of the electronic

2   record are filled with XML data based on a predefined mapping to multiple data sources.

1   16. (original): The computer system of claim 11 wherein the processor and

2   computer program are further operative to obtain and verify the electronic signature, and

3   thereafter, mark the electronic record as signed.

1   17. (Previously presented): The computer system of claim 16 wherein the

2   processor and computer program are further operative to initially mark the electronic record as

3   unsigned by setting an appropriate attribute associated with a database table in which at least part

4   of the record is stored.

1   18. (Currently amended): A computer program product having a computer-

2   readable storage medium storing a set of code modules which when executed by a processor of a

3   computer system cause the processor to manage electronic records stored in a database, the

4   computer program product comprising:

5   code for receiving information indicative of an occurrence of a predetermined

6   event, the predetermined event defined to represent a set of operations to be preformed to

7   accomplish a task;

8   code for automatically creating an electronic record from data stored in a plurality

9   of different database tables associated with execution of one or more operations in the set of

10 operations a database transaction in response to [[an]] the occurrence of [[a]] the predetermined

11 event;

12   code for storing an instance of the electronic record in a common repository of

13   electronic records that provides an audit trail that cannot be altered or disabled by users

14   associated with the database;

15   code for executing a rule associated with the electronic record to determine

16   whether an electronic signature is required to connote review and/or approval of the electronic

17   record; and

18   code for marking the instance of the electronic record as unsigned and initiating a

19   request to collect the required electronic signature if execution of the rule results in a

20   determination that an electronic signature is required ~~prior to committing the database transaction~~

21   ~~to the database~~.

1   19. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 18 wherein

2   the electronic record is stored in a common repository of electronic records that provides an audit

3   trail that cannot be altered or disabled by users of the system.

1   20. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 19 wherein

2   the electronic record comprises unstructured data in a character large object (CLOB) format.

1   21. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 20 wherein

2   the unstructured data comprises a well-formed XML document stored within a column of a table

3   stored in the database.

1   22. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 21 wherein

2   fields of the electronic record are filled with XML data based on a predefined mapping to

3   multiple data sources.

1   23. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 18 further

2   comprising code for obtaining and verifying the electronic signature, and thereafter, marking the

3   electronic record as signed.

1   24. (Previously presented): The computer program product of program 23

2   further comprising code for initially marking the electronic record as unsigned by setting an

3   appropriate attribute associated with a database table in which at least part of the record is stored.

1   25. (Currently amended): A <u>computer-implemented</u> method of collecting an

2   electronic signature for an electronic record stored in a database, the method comprising:

3   <u>receiving information defining one or more events associated with an industrial</u>

4   <u>process, each event in the one or more events indicative of a set of one or more operations to be</u>

5   <u>performed to accomplish a task in the industrial process;</u>

6   <u>storing data in the database in a plurality of different database tables in response</u>

7   <u>to execution of one or more operations associated with the one or more events, the data related to</u>

8   <u>the execution of the one or more operations;</u>

9   ~~automatically creating~~ <u>generating</u> an electronic record in response to an

10 occurrence of a predetermined event <u>in the one or more events</u> from <u>at least a portion of the</u> data

11 stored in [[a]] <u>the</u> plurality of different database tables ~~associated with a database transaction,~~

12 ~~wherein the electronic record comprises unstructured, well-formed XML data stored in a~~

13 ~~character large-object (CLOB) format~~;

14   storing an instance of the electronic record <u>as a well-formed XML document that</u>

15 <u>tracks the predetermined event</u> in a common repository of electronic records that provides an

16 audit trail that cannot be altered or disabled by users associated with the database;

17   executing a rule associated with the electronic record to determine whether an

18 electronic signature is required to connote review and/or approval of the electronic record; and

19   if execution of the rule results in a determination that an electronic signature is

20 required, marking the instance of the electronic record as unsigned;

21   requesting [[the]] <u>an</u> electronic signature <u>for the electronic record;</u>

22   after obtaining the electronic signature, verifying its authenticity; and

23   if the electronic signature is verified as authentic, marking the electronic record as

24 signed prior to committing the database transaction to the database.

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